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ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 16ABALTIMORE SUN
3 October 1984

East German woman seized as spy after BWI rendezvous

NEW YORK (AP) — A 67-year-old East German woman was held on espionage charges yesterday after she allegedly tried to leave the country with classified military information concealed in a cigarette package.

Alice Michelson, identified as a Marxism instructor from East Berlin, allegedly was trying to deliver material she obtained at Baltimore-Washington International Airport from an American double agent to the Soviet KGB when she was arrested Monday night at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

She was charged under a statute that carries life imprisonment upon conviction, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Ronald DePetrus.

U.S. Magistrate John Caden ordered Ms. Michelson held without bail and scheduled a hearing for October 11. She said nothing except "No," when Mr. Caden asked if she needed medical attention. An interpreter translated the proceeding in German for her.

Ms. Michelson did not enter a plea and her court-appointed lawyer, Richard Finkelstein, declined to comment.

Ms. Michelson was preparing to board a Czechoslovak Airlines flight to Prague and East Berlin when she was arrested about 9:30 p.m. by FBI agents, officials said.

A 70-year-old man was ques-

tioned yesterday as agents searched his apartment and another described in court papers as a "safe house" for Soviet spies. The man was not charged.

Ms. Michelson arrived in this country on a tourist visa sometime around September 10, Mr. DePetrus said.

Saturday she flew to Baltimore-Washington International Airport, where she met with a U.S. Army sergeant who had been recruited three years ago by the KGB, the Soviet Union's intelligence agency. The sergeant, however, was secretly cooperating with the Army's Intelligence Command and tape-recorded their meeting.

Ms. Michelson returned to New York City, spent two nights at the "safe house," and then took a cab to the airport Monday afternoon, authorities said.

In its application for a search warrant, the FBI said it believed the two apartments contained "devices used to conceal and transmit" secret information, "coded pads, secret writing paper, greeting cards and other documents containing microdots; microfiche and instructions in the use of these materials"; and records containing the identities of other foreign espionage agents. Officials did not disclose what, if anything, was found.